

lessness, it would be foolish to abandon use of this particular contraceptive and other methods such as the IUD because of the infrequent health risks attendant upon their use. Effective conception control is an important remedial effort the world over.

These hearings can have one important, positive effect: To highlight the desperate need for much more research in the area of contraceptive technology and reproductive physiology. We do not have the perfect contraceptive. Both the pill and the IUD, while vast improvements over older methods, leave much to be desired. In addition to the safety factor, these methods require medical supervision and are therefore costly and unavailable to many women around the world. Sizeable numbers of women cannot use one or another or both. The continuation rate after two years for our best methods is not good enough. What we need is new methods that are safe, free of side effects, cheap, require little medical supervision, act over a period of time, and are reversible when a woman wants to become pregnant.

A massive research program must be undertaken not only to document the true health status of the present oral contraceptive, to remove the issue of their safety from the current polemic status to the status of incontrovertible scientific fact. Research must also be undertaken to develop as rapidly as possible a multiplicity of safe and effective birth control methods to be used either by the female or the male.

To carry out such a broad and complete research program two elements are necessary: Talent and Money. Scientific talent is available. But the field of conception control research must be given the same glamour, urgency, and long-term funding now assigned to cancer, stroke, and heart research, to attract first-rate minds to the field.

Money has not been available from the Federal government in anywhere near the amount needed. Contraceptive research has been the stepchild of medical research, starved, ignored.

What is required is sizeable, long-term funding of a magnitude that is possible only from the Federal government. The sums thus far allotted have been totally inadequate. For this fiscal year, for example, only about \$5,000,000 has been requested by Federal agencies for both contraceptive development, and research into the safety and effectiveness of existing contraceptives.

Over the years, a variety of voices have raised the issue of adequate funding for contraceptive research. In 1967, a group of experts recommended to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare an expenditure of at least \$150,000,000 a year for research in reproductive biology; expansion of support for social research and training in population problems; a family planning and research demonstration fund of at least \$10,000,000 a year. Needless to say, these funds were not forthcoming (20).

In 1968, the President's Committee on Population and Family Planning recommended that a minimum of \$30,000,000 be allocated for biomedical and social science research and training in population in Fiscal 1970 and \$100,000,000 in 1971. Needless to say, these sums have not been made available (21).

I would like to call to the attention of members of this Committee action pending before Congress which can change this state of affairs.

A bill sponsored by Senators Joseph Tydings and Ralph Yarborough, and co-sponsored by 86 Senators and Representatives from both parties, urges a five-year authorization for "medical, contraceptive, behavioral and program implementation research in the area of family planning." The cost of this research would range from \$35,000,000 in Fiscal 1971 to \$100,000,000 in 1975.

It is my strong plea that the distinguished Senators forming this Committee support the Tydings-Yarborough bill when it comes to the floor of Congress. This will be a positive way for you to show your concern for the health and well-being of the women of our country as well as women all over the world—and for the population problem that poses such a threat to the well-being of all mankind.

Thank you.

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